

RE: WT Docket 05-235

October 26, 2005

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for finally releasing WT Docket 05-235 for comment.

It is a shame that more Amateur licensees did not take the time to read WT Docket 05-235 before commenting.

Your reasons for removing the Morse code testing are very well presented.

The first reason to encouraging new individuals, who are interested in communications technology, is correct. Over the years, many of my friends have expressed their interest in Amateur Radio. Unfortunately, their interest ended when told of a Morse code test. They would have been very good additions to Amateur Radio because of their background in electronics. Very few Amateurs have not experienced a similar scenario.

The second reason, concerning the advancement of Amateur licensees within the Amateur Radio Service, was proven in 2000. When the code was reduced to 5 wpm, the number of Extra Class licensees doubled in five years. The Technician Plus Class upgraded to General or higher. So, the code test requirement has a major negative impact on "incentive licensing".

Finally, the efficient use of the frequencies can only occur if the lower class licensees can get to the Extra Class. If outdated testing requirements continue to be a barrier to the Extra Class license, then the number of new Extras will remain small. The frequencies allocated to the Extra Class will continue to be under used.

The Commission is on the correct path to help the Amateur Radio Service.

The Amateurs who oppose your proposal appear to want to keep the status quo. Their position will only continue the negative growth and impede the advancement of nearly half of the current licensees to HF privileges.

Your proposal may not increase the numbers of new licensees due to other forms of communications (i.e. Internet and cell phones). But, it will definitely help the advancement within the service. The Technician Class would be the class most impacted by this change. On the air discussions with current Technician Class licensees indicate that they plan to upgrade to General or higher.

Please adopt WT Docket 05-235 and completely eliminate the Morse code testing requirement.

**Respectfully,
Melvin Lehmann**